



St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

24.2.23

#12

Dear Parents & Carers

As we begin Spring Term 2, we also begin our Lenten journey. During our Ash Wednesday service with Fr Joseph, the Pupil Chaplains reminded us that Lent is a special time of prayer and reflection. They explained that very much like the bright light of the sun that shows up cobwebs during 'spring cleaning', the light of Jesus allows us to look at our own lives to see what we might clean out.

It was wonderful service and as always we enjoyed sharing this celebration with the parishioners of St Dominic's and our school parents and carers.

Traditionally, Lent has been marked as being a time to give something up. Fasting from food or drink, or certain kinds of food or drink, is a common practice but recently, many people have been trying a new kind of fasting for Lent. Pope Francis recommends these new ways:

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

JTA POSTER COMPETITION – BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN A SCOOTER!

A letter was sent to parents and carers today, explaining that our School JTAs are running a 'Change your journey, change our school!' Poster Competition. To help encourage the school community to travel actively, they are asking their peers to draw a poster that promotes active travel. The competition rules are:

- Have fun and be as creative as you like!
- Designs should be colourful so posters stand out.
- Any writing should be large so it can be read.
- Designs should be A4 size - no larger or smaller.
- Entries must be returned to the school office by Monday 6th March.

3 winning posters (EYFS, KS1 & KS2) will be chosen and these will be displayed around the school. The names of the three winning children will be put into a hat and the name picked out will win a brand new Zinc Folding Inline Scooter.

PTA MEETING - 10TH MARCH

I would like to invite you to our very first PTA meeting on Friday 10th March, that will be held in the Key Stage 2 Hall at 9.00am. This will be part of our Coffee morning where we will also be discussing the return of our Summer Fete. The school is looking for parent/carers volunteers who would like to play a part in planning and running fun events over the year for our children whilst raising money for our school. PTA events could include: discos, movie nights, Bouncy Castle days, fairs and pop-up gift shops.

If you would like to attend, please complete and return the slip that was sent home with your child today.

Mr Ashburn

Attendance

TOP FIVE

1	St Catherine's	100%
2	St Matthew's	100%
3	St Thomas'	99.58%
4	St Paul's	99.17%
5	St Philomena's	98.75%

SPRING TERM DATES

- 🔔 2nd March – Year 1 trip to Harold Hill Library
- 🔔 3rd March — World Book Day! Dress up day.
- 🔔 3rd March – Year 5 & 6 C.S.I Road Safety Workshop
- 🔔 10th March — PTA Meeting and Coffee Morning
- 🔔 16th March— Year 5 Miles the Mole Air Pollution Workshop
- 🔔 17th March Science Dress-up Day
- 🔔 28th March—Easter Production
- 🔔 29th March—Yr1 & Yr2 Road Safety Workshop
- 🔔 30th March – End of Term reports sent out (KS1 & KS2)
- 🔔 30th March – Curriculum Celebration Afternoon (KS1 & KS2)
- 🔔 31st March – Whole School Mass & Easter Egg Hunt



St Ursula's Catholic
Primary School

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 24th June
2023
11.00am – 3.30pm



FREE ENTRY

Inflatables | Arts and Crafts Stalls | Refreshments & Hot Food | DJ & Karaoke | Games and Fun | Raffles | Face Painting | Dance & Music performances | Much much more!



St Ursula's Catholic Primary School
Straight Road
Harold Hill
RM3 7JS

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world. Since launching in 2008, Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to manage and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 489 million users globally.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXPLICIT LYRICS

As per Spotify's terms and conditions, people need to be at least 13 to use it. That said, the platform doesn't censor lyrics unless instructed to do so in the settings – so it's worth noting that young teenagers could still be exposed to age-inappropriate songs which contain explicit references to sexual behaviour, violence, discriminatory language and swearing.

GROOMING TACTICS

Although Spotify doesn't come with dedicated chat functionality, concerns were raised in January 2023 after reports of an 11-year-old girl being coerced into sharing explicit pictures of herself on the platform. The case highlighted predators' tactics of sharing empty playlists with other users: their messages were being exchanged undetected through edited song titles and descriptions, bypassing security measures.

OVERSHARING

Spotify provides a perfect way to play music, with the ability to connect to another device, such as a Bluetooth speaker or an in-car stereo. While this is a useful feature, it's also easy to forget your surroundings and inadvertently play content which isn't appropriate for all listeners (especially those under the age of 18), potentially causing alarm or distress.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS

Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to shows, stories, interviews and more – with content covering an array of topics. This includes some material which isn't suitable for minors, including audio which is obviously adult-themed, but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.

ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE

If your child has a Spotify account, they'll also be able to access the platform's audio-only chat service: Spotify Live. While it's a separate stand-alone app, Spotify Live allows people to listen to live discussions on the main Spotify platform and, more notably, lets users enter virtual rooms to chat with other users, opening up direct conversations with strangers and individuals who might not necessarily be there for the right reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS

If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate, ad-free service specifically designed for children aged 12 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy human-curated, child-friendly content (such as music and audiobooks) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium Family subscription – meaning that parents can view and manage the content their child listens to.

CENSOR EXPLICIT CONTENT

Regardless of what type of account your child uses to access Spotify, there is an option to turn off explicit content in the settings – greying out all songs marked with an 'E' tag. If your child has their own individual account, it's easier for them to turn it back on – whereas with a family plan, you're in control and your child can't alter the setting without knowing the password.



TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with strangers, and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.

KEEP AN EYE OUT

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly secretive about how they're using it, encourage them to talk about what they're listening to. It's always prudent to show an interest in their online habits from the outset – so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way, for the right reasons, and they're not being drawn into anything they shouldn't be.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday